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**A COST OF LIVING INQUIRY**

There is promise that the inquiry into living costs in Washington will be under way within a few weeks. Congress is expected to pass the pending resolution soon after it convenes. It will be either useless or otherwise, according, as it is conducted.

An inquiry into living costs here could easily be made representative of the whole country; practically, of the world. There are exceptional details that differ in countries and lesser communities; but the general facts are of pretty nearly universal application.

If the investigation is intended to bear on the relation of wages to living costs, it may have a very specific application and the greatest importance right here; for if it will, if properly conducted, demonstrate the inadequacy of Government wages and salaries, which are the largest source of income to Washington people.

A verdict against the forestallers in Chicago, or the warning nations of Europe, or the packers, butchers, bakers or candlestick fabricators will not help much. A verdict that Uncle Sam scandalously underpays 40,000 employees in this town would have real point.

**WHAT KEEPS THE CARS BUSY**

Anybody looking for an explanation of the coal shortage just at this season, will find illuminating information in a statement of the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, appertaining to the shipments of motor cars in October. It appears that they totaled 19,510 cars. This was the largest month's shipments in the history of the industry. One year previous, October, 1915, holds second place, with 17,848 cars.

Automobiles constitute a pretty large drop in the bucket of industrial shipments; quite a little splash, in fact. The iron and steel manufacturers report similar expansion of their tonnage, all to be moved by the rails. In almost every other direction there is the same testimony to a great increase of demand on the railroads.

Automobiles probably occupy the cars longer, and have to be hauled farther, than the average of other freights. They are distributed from the interior to all sections of the country, pretty uniformly in relation to population. In the year ended June 15 last, over \$100,000,000 worth of motor vehicles were exported from this country.

**UNITED HEBREW CHARITIES**

Every annual report of the United Hebrew Charities of Washington brings to the reader a deeper appreciation of the unusual, thorough, and efficient service rendered by this organization.

Its methods are direct and simple, its help is tempered to the needs of its constituents, its work in the rejuvenation of families shows rare common sense, and its services are practically all performed by volunteers.

One of the most notable phases of the organization's work is the preventive measures it adopts. The result of these speaks for itself in a record which shows that no person of the Hebrew faith has been in the workhouse or Ocoquan within the past year.

The United Hebrew Charities is one of a number of Hebrew organizations working in the Washington field. For some years there has been a movement to unite these in a strong central organization. The suggestion is worthy of consideration and action. Among a group of organizations which have shown themselves laboring for a common ideal, without any jealousy in claiming credit for work accomplished, there should be no difficulty in crystallizing sentiment for such a co-operation if it is determined that it would bring greater efficiency.

**WHERE'S THIS MERCHANT MARINE?**

Democratic campaign posters uniformly acclaim as a distinguished achievement of the Administration, the passage of the legislation to establish an American merchant marine. It would appear, however, that there is quite a chasm between bills and boats; between a measure and a marine.

Here, for instance, is a San Francisco dispatch telling that the steamer California has been sold by a San Francisco shipping firm to

Marquis Lucilio Riccamoni, of Rome, and will be added to the Italian merchant marine. She is described as one of the biggest freighters that ever plied the Pacific, and will remain on the California-Panama-New York-Mediterranean route. Changing her ownership and registry merely makes her a naval auxiliary of Italy instead of the United States. She may be withdrawn at any time from her present routings and used elsewhere, or may be commandeered as a transport or collier. The United States at any rate has lost control of her.

As illustrating the efficacy of the new merchant marine legislation, the case will probably not be used extensively in furtherance of Democratic campaign claims.

**THE FALL OF FORT VAUX**

That is a curious explanation which Berlin sends out, of the abandonment of Fort Vaux. It emphasizes that the position, practically the last of Verdun's defenses to remain in German hands, was abandoned in accordance with the pre-arranged plans of the general staff. The press representatives, it is carefully explained, were notified in advance of the evacuation plans.

Fort Vaux, it appears, was not worth holding. It was a "material element" in the defense of Verdun; so it was important to take it and destroy it; but it was ill adapted to defense from the French attacks, and with Douaumont in French hands did not justify the sacrifices necessary to retain it.

There will be inquiry in Berlin and in Bavaria, we suspect, as to why the general staff should at this late day be making these discoveries. They amount to a confession that the Verdun campaign was a mistake. There has been a persistent report that the best German strategical authority opposed the whole Verdun campaign, on the ground that its result was doubtful, and that even in case of success it would not warrant the losses it would involve. Those losses have been unprecedented in any like enterprise in all warfare; and the net result is not only failure, but a disaster to German morale.

The truth about Verdun and the Somme seems to be that the Germans have not the power in men and machinery to hold all they took in the early weeks of the war. There are not sufficient reserves to make the lines secure as against the superior forces that the Anglo-French are now able to bring to bear. It is unbelievable that for any less conclusive reason the Germans would have abandoned a terrain that, a few months ago, they not only insisted they could and would take, but sacrificed perhaps a half million men to capture.

Compared with this confession of essential weakness and spectacular failure on the western front, the successes of the central powers in Roumania must be classed as unimportant. Moreover, the advances in the Near East seem distinctly to have been checked. Roumania is not being wiped off the map as Serbia was; and, considering the herculean effort of schrecklichkeit to administer a last terrorization treatment to a smaller nation, that failure is important, too. The dispassionate surveyor of the military position will conclude that after weakening the Verdun and the Somme fronts in order to aggregate power to crush Roumania, Germany shows a net result of great losses on the weakened fronts, while she is failing in Roumania to accomplish the thing that was intended. The signs of France bleeding to death are decidedly less significant than those of Germany becoming impotent.

**THE BRITISH AND FRENCH LOANS**

The new British loan of \$300,000,000 is to be secured by the deposit of an interesting aggregation of securities which have been mobilized by the British government. The list, as announced generally in the advertisements of the underwriting syndicate, suggests that the supply of available securities of the gilded class is not so plentiful as once. There are securities of American railroads, of the Canadian Pacific, of several neutral governments, and of dividend-paying British roads. The inclusion of this latter class of collateral is an intimation that the bottom of John Bull's strong box has been scraped pretty closely for non-English paper. Further, government securities of several of the self-governing British possessions are included.

Even with \$360,000,000 worth of this class of securities back of it, the loan will earn about 5.85 for investors. On top of it is announced a French industrial loan of \$100,

000,000, at prices that will net the syndicated banks about 6 1/2 per cent per annum.

Some of the financial commentators have opined that the recent interview of Henry P. Davison on the financial, military, and business conditions in France and Britain, was a feeler preliminary to the expected offer of a great loan secured only by the governmental credit of one or both these countries. There is much speculation as to the reception that investing America would accord to such a loan. Thus far, there has been mighty small indication of sentimental interest in the cause of the allies. The rates and the securities offered have been so attractive as to insure investment in them. The real fiscal test will come when, with the great debt already piled high, the entente countries undertake to revert to plain governmental credit.

Considering the billions of collaterals that France and England have been able to mobilize, and that the central powers have been unable to attempt matching this store of wealth in the financial markets, it must be apparent that the allies possess a marvelous advantage in facing the prospect of a long war.

**"ON THE AMERICAN PLAN"**

Mt. Lassen is reported in eruption, Lassen is a California volcano, recently come to life after an indefinite period of quiescence during which it was commonly regarded as extinct. It is now kicking up a scumptions disturbance; if its name were Vesuvius or Etna or Stromboli, it would be on the society pages of all the world's seismic news. Being only a nouveau riche American upstart volcano, it squeaks in with the commonality.

All the same, Mt. Lassen is one of the biggest of 'em. It is 10,437 feet high, which is two and one-half times the altitude of Vesuvius, the world's leading volcano. It is of just about the same height as Etna. We don't recall the talth of Pelion and Ossa; but we do know that two Vesuviuses would make a poor showing alongside this splendid sample of the producing capacity of the country that has the biggest and best of everything, and could "lick the world" if at the moment it were not in the umbrage of a leadership "to proud to fight."

**GREECE ON THE VERGE OF WAR**

The way of the neutral is hard. Greece has been persistently neutral; at least, its government has been determined to maintain such an attitude. Now the country is almost in the hands of the allies; a provisional government has been set up by the Venizelist party; the country has lost all hope of the neutral career that the war might have opened to it; its navy has been turned over to the entente; German submarines are sniping off Greek merchant ships without regard, and, finally, a clash between Greek royalist and Venizelist troops is imminent.

Venizelos forces seized the town of Katerina, drove out the royalist garrison, and are reported liable to be attacked at any moment by another royalist force which is only a few miles away. Unless the allied forces at Saloniki intervene, by way of policing the country, the clash seems inevitable.

Civil war, atop the chaos of politics, commerce, finance and social organization, would indeed make Greece the most unfortunate of all the war's victims. This war is leaving few and thorny places for neutrals in the world.

**THE DOMESTIC SERVANT**

Washington club women are going about the business of raising the standard of domestic service in an original and interesting fashion. Through a contest for awards to be given to domestics longest in the service of a single family, they are compiling a blue book of faithful servants.

Just why the efficient servant in the household has never been accorded any recognition such as is given in nearly every other line of effort, is a problem. For various reasons a stigma attaches to service as a cook or maid, while the nurse, for example, is regarded as a professional person. This feeling toward domestics is partly a relic of slavery days and of European caste distinctions.

The work of the servant in the household never has met with the recognition which would encourage the workers to a pride in their occupation. In many cases the financial awards have been greater than in any other lines of work. The supposed loss of dignity, not the poor pay, seems to be the principal handicap under which the domestic labors.

To overcome this is the business of the employers if they desire better maids and cooks, and that is the purpose of the District of Columbia Federation of Women's Clubs in their present effort. The monetary awards they will give will be less prized, one suspects, than the implication that goes with them of an appreciation of good work well done for a long period.

**Don Marquis' Column**

Interviews With Imaginary Characters.

THE GUNMAN.

And the gunman said, in part, as follows:

I was educated for the Presbyterian ministry. So you need not be surprised at the purity of my accent or the clarity of my diction.

An old gentleman whom I was murdering the other day expressed surprise at being slain by an educated man that I almost permitted him to escape while I explained to him how it came about that a university graduate should follow the profession of a gunman.

I had at no time any desire to be a breacher. My people insisted upon it and I permitted them to send me to college.

The only thing I had ever wanted to be was a poet, and as soon as I had left the university I came on to New York for the purpose of realizing that ambition, no matter what my sufferings and privations might be while I was serving my apprenticeship.

I arrived in the city with little money and no friends. I had not been here long before it began to appear to me that the obstacles placed by organized society in the path of the beginning poet were almost insurmountable.

I am not physically strong and I am not particularly courageous. In fact, I am rather a timid person. The conditions of living in New York shocked me. On every hand I found the wicked prospering. Crooked politicians, gamblers, burglars, corrupt policemen, and, in fact, every sort of transgressor appeared to be living upon the fat of the land. The person who is both poor and innocent seemed to stand no chance of bettering himself in the city.

It was, for instance, according to the newspapers, possible for a person belonging to a rowdy gang to rob or even murder an enemy and escape punishment through his political connections. With the greatest desire on earth to pursue the quiet, peaceful, and honorable career of a poet, I did not seem to me that I could do so and live without affiliating myself with some organization which would protect me from the wickedness of the metropolis.

But there seemed to be no organization of innocent and honorable people in New York city which was successfully combating the powers of organized crime and iniquity. But gunmen were un molested. Therefore, I would become a gunman simply in order that I might be protected, that I might be let alone, that I might pursue my poetical vocation in security and at leisure.

Having determined to become a gunman I wished to give to this profession at least as much as I got from it. It did not seem to me that it would be honorable to accept the protection of a gang of thugs and rowdies without at the same time contributing something to their welfare. So, I made up my mind to become as perfect in the art and science of gunmanship as possible. As I said before, I am rather timid by nature. Robbery, in all its different branches, is a business that requires something very like nerve. Murder is not a thing that can be taken up casually by a cowardly man. Here is where my university training stood me in good stead. I at once made a thorough analysis of all the qualities absolutely essential to the business of the crook and thug and began to develop myself along the lines necessary. To my surprise and gratification I found that I was more qualified for these things, by taste, at least, than I had at first supposed. I do not wish to inebriate, of course, the management of the education given in our theological seminaries which develops an impulse toward crime.

Having once chosen my way of life I gave so many hours a day to crime and so many hours a day to poetry, that gradually the taste for writing grew less and less and the taste for crime grew more. After five years of the life of a gunman a poem seems a pallid thing to me. I am more interested in more practical literature. The reports of vice commissions I read with avid interest. Sociological works enthral me. The tomes of psychology and all the books on mental abnormality appeal to me. I do not like to dwell too much upon the details of my business, particularly upon the murders which I commit, but I cannot disguise a feeling of pride in the fact that I am more of an artist than any other gunman in New York city. It is not the life I would have chosen, perhaps, but having chosen it all the best that I can do is to make the most of it. I am, spiritually, mentally, and artistically. And I have risen in the trade. I say it with all modesty. I do not need to boast. I am known as an expert in my line. I am at the top of my profession.

And, of course, I hope in time to get out of it. I have lived quietly and I have saved money. There was a time when the ordinary gunman of New York was pretty well satisfied with a hundred dollars as his share of a killing. I do my work with a certain grace and finish of which the ordinary gunman knows nothing. And I never touch a murder for less than a thousand dollars' cash in advance. I have a neat sum in the bank and in time I shall once more become respectable, which is an easy matter for those who can afford to pay the market price for respectability.

Just now I am in doubt as to whether to go in for politics, which I could easily do through my acquaintance with persons to whom I have been of service, or whether to go into some commercial business. I would like to have a million before I retire.

If this brief sketch of the beginning of my career holds anything that may be useful to young men coming to New York city to make their way in the world I shall be thankful.

And on one other point I wish to be explicit. People often ask me if I regret my college training. I do not. Most emphatically not. I feel that I owe much to it. DON MARQUIS.

**Wilson Muddled U. S. Foreign Affairs, Says Hughes in N. Y. Speech**

ALBANY, N. Y., Nov. 3.—In the final cur of his campaign in his home State Charles E. Hughes is taking direct issue with President Wilson on the subject of "Americanism."

Replying to the assertion made by the President in Buffalo that he could not regard as a patriot any man who used "our foreign relations for political advantage," Mr. Hughes here last night flung a stinging rebuff to the charge that his conduct of international relations was well described, in the words of Dr. Inverell, as "a muddle of muddle," that invited insult, hampered the advance of American trade and endangered the lives of American citizens on land and at sea.

Mr. Hughes had no apology to make, Mr. Hughes said, for any of his utterances about American rights and what he believed should be done. He used these words: "When a matter is so important as the maintenance of American rights, the opinion should be expressed, and I have no apology to make in standing before you and in saying that if I am elected President, I propose that the American flag shall not be only a symbol of courtesy, a symbol of justice, but it shall be the symbol of firmness and consistency in maintaining our rights on land and on sea throughout the world."

Mr. Hughes said that he was not a "gentleman," but he was a "gentleman" in the sense of the President's address, "but it is the peace of a gentleman, unafraid, alert in self-respect and getting his rights, quietly and calmly, ready to maintain them. That is the peace of a gentleman."

In regard to the resignation of the President's one-time Secretary of War, Lindley M. Garrison, Mr. Hughes said: "We did have in the Cabinet of this Administration a first-class man as our Secretary of War, but he could not live with the Administration and had to get out."

Mr. Hughes got a big demonstration here and there was a five-minute demonstration at the hall.

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**THE CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNORS**

Thirty-four States will elect governors on November 7. Here are the candidates:

State.	REPUBLICAN.	DEMOCRATIC.
Arizona.....	Tom Campbell	*George W. P. Hunt
Arkansas.....	Wallace Townsend	C. H. Brough
Colorado.....	*George A. Carlson	Julius C. Gunter
Connecticut.....	*Marcus H. Holcomb	Morris B. Beardsley
Delaware.....	John G. Townsend	James S. Hughes
Florida.....	George A. Allen	W. V. Knott
Idaho.....	D. W. Davis	*Moses Alexander
Illinois.....	Frank O. Lowden	*Edward F. Dunne
Indiana.....	James P. Goodrich	John A. M. Adair
Iowa.....	W. L. Harding	W. C. Meredith
Kansas.....	*Arthur Capper	Frederick W. Mansfield
Massachusetts.....	*Samuel W. McCall	Edwin F. Sweet
Michigan.....	*Albert E. Sleeper	Cyrus M. King
Minnesota.....	*John A. A. Burnquist	Frederick D. Gardiner
Missouri.....	John E. Swanger	*Samuel V. Stewart
Montana.....	Frank J. Edwards	Keith Neville
Nebraska.....	Abraham L. Sutton	John C. Hutchins
New Hampshire.....	Henry W. Keyes	H. Otto Wittmann
New Jersey.....	Walter E. Edge	E. C. de Baca
New Mexico.....	Holm O. Bursum	Samuel S. Seabury
New York.....	*Charles S. Whitman	T. W. Bickett
North Carolina.....	Frank A. Linney	D. H. McArthur
North Dakota.....	Lynn Fraser	James M. Cox
Ohio.....	*Frank B. Willis	Richard E. Munroe
Rhode Island.....	*R. Livingston Beekman	*Richard E. Manning
South Carolina.....	Peter Norbeck	F. D. Morcom
Tennessee.....	John W. Overall	*James E. Ferguson
Texas.....	R. B. Creager	Simon Bamberger
Utah.....	Nephi Morris	William B. Mayo
Vermont.....	Horace F. Graham	*Ernest Lister
Washington.....	Henry McBride	John J. Cornwell
West Virginia.....	Ira E. Robinson	Burt Williams
Wisconsin.....	*Emanuel L. Philipp	

\*Candidates starred are present incumbents.

The issue in all of the States is between Republicans and Democrats, except in South Carolina, where the Democratic candidate is unopposed, and in Florida, where Sidney J. Catts is running as an independent.

**COOPER PROMISES PEPPER N. TALK**

Has Speech With "A Kick in It" for Cooper Union Gathering Tonight.

ALBANY, N. Y., Nov. 3.—Colonel Roosevelt today promised "an entirely new speech with a kick in it" when he appears at Cooper Union in New York tonight. His speech will be an Americanism with a heretofore untouched angle. As usual, he will preface his prepared address with more verbal flings at President Wilson's foreign and Mexican policies and at his "fine words."

He had prepared a speech on Americanism and industrialism for Cleveland when he spoke to 4,000 at the armory last night and to three thousand more who gathered in the rotunda of the city hall as an overflow, but the speech of President Wilson at Buffalo Wednesday stung him into an introductory extemporaneous talk that took up most of his time at the former place. He used most of his industrial topic at the city hall overflow.

At the armory meeting Roosevelt was particularly denunciatory in his criticism of President Wilson, Bryan, and Secretary Baker. He scored the President for "spaking of me always in the evasive third person plural."

**PETTICOAT SPECIAL**

NEAR END OF TRIP

Hughes Women Plan to Finish Campaign Tonight.

TRENTON, N. J., Nov. 3.—Within sight of home, the Women's Hughes campaign today planned a whirlwind finish of their 11,075-mile trans-continental round trip. Several street meetings were booked, after which they were scheduled to go to Newark, where Mrs. Hughes will be their guest.

The campaigners were in great trim. They told the city that their swing around the circle had been victorious, and that they had achieved their mission of winning many votes to Hughes.

They were glad at the thought of getting home to New York tonight. There, a big reception awaits them from a special committee, and they will participate in a mass meeting.

**EASTERN STAR ORDER**

TO MEET IN SEATTLE

Fifteenth Triennial Assembly Is Brought to a Close.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Nov. 3.—Seattle was named at the concluding session of the fifteenth triennial assembly of the Eastern Star here as the place for the next triennial meeting of the Order of the Eastern Star. The place was chosen by ballot, and the vote was 1,000 to 1.

The general grand chapter voted to sever existing relations with the grand chapter of Scotland. No reason for the step was made public.

**WHAT'S GOING ON IN WASHINGTON TODAY**

Business meeting, Klinsner class of young men of Calvary Baptist Church, at home of Mrs. J. B. Kinsner, 1510 California street northwest, 8 p. m.  
Political speech, Solicitor Albert E. Thurman, of the Department of Commerce, at Henry hall, 1510 California street northwest, 8 p. m.  
Address, W. H. P. Anderson, before meeting of Woman's International Missionary Union, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Eleventh and H streets northwest, 8 p. m.  
Annual flower show, Department of Agriculture, at the Agricultural Building, 14th and B streets northwest, 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.  
Democratic board of education, at the Metropolitan Hotel, 14th and B streets northwest, 9 p. m.  
Meeting, Osteopathic Association of the District, Public Library, 8 p. m.  
Benefit of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, at the Masonic Temple, 1130 11th street northwest, 8 p. m.  
Meeting, Citizens' Northwest Association, at the Masonic Temple, 1130 11th street northwest, 8 p. m.  
Meeting, committee on streets and avenues of the Board of Trade, in rooms of the Board, 430 p. m.  
Address, Judge J. Wilmer Lattimer before special meeting of the Episcopal diocesan board of social service, St. John's Parish Hall, Sixteenth street near H northwest, 8 p. m.  
Lecture, "A Survey of the Shakespeare Comedies," Dean William A. Wilbur, before Shakespeare Society of America, auditorium of the Calvary Baptist Church, 8 p. m.  
Exhibit of nature study, Wilson Normal School, 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.  
Meeting, trustees of the Florida Avenue Baptist Church Public Forum, 730 p. m.  
Masonic-Lodge, No. 1, at the Masonic Temple, 1130 11th street northwest, 8 p. m.  
Old Fellows-Central, No. 1, Metropolitan, No. 10, Phoenix, No. 2, Metropolitan, No. 10, Knights of Pythias-Syracusan, No. 10, Rathbone Temple, No. 1, of the Pythian Sisters.

**Amusements.**

New National Potash and Perimeter in Society, 8:15 p. m.  
Belasco-Washington Square Players in repertoire, 8:20 p. m.  
Polka-"Keep Moving," 8:15 p. m.  
Keith's-Vaudeville, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.  
Lafayette-Burlesque, 8:15 p. m.  
Strand-Photoplay, 10 a. m. to 11 p. m.  
Garden-Photoplay, 10 a. m. to 11 p. m.  
Lodge-Columbia-Photoplay, 10:30 a. m. to 11 p. m.  
Tomorrow.  
Annual chrysanthemum show, Department of Agriculture, Fourteenth and B streets northwest, 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.  
Addison, E. R. Automobile will be at and of Chevy Chase car line at 2:30 to convey guests to mission.  
Illustrated lecture, "The Norway of Canada - Alaska," Dr. Frank Veigh, American Old Fellows-Canton Washington, No. 1, Pythian Temple, 8 p. m.